

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 144
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 0210

USEEC

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, GR
SUBJECT: ECEVIT STATEMENTS ON CYPRUS, JANUARY 5-9

REF: ANKARA 121 (DTG 061055Z JAN 78)

1. SUMMARY: SINCE HIS DESIGNATION AS PRIMIN JANUARY 5,
ECEVIT HAS EMPHASIZED: (A) THAT HE INTENDS TO WORK FOR
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SPEEDY SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF CYPRUS AND GREEK-
TURKISH RELATIONS WITHOUT REGARD TO THE US ARMS EMBARGO;
(B) THAT TURKEY SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE ON BOTH THE
TERRITORIAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE CYPRUS
PROBLEM; (C) THAT WHILE US INTEREST IS WELCOMED, GREECE
AND TURKEY SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE TO RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS;
AND (D) THAT CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN SHOULD BE HANDLED

"SEPARATELY BUT SIMULTANEOUSLY". IN ALL HIS PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS, HOWEVER, HE HAS STRESSED THAT UNTIL HIS GOVERNMENT WINS A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE ITS CYPRUS POLICY IS NECESSARILY TENTATIVE. THE PRO-ECEVIT PRESS IS SUPPORTIVE OF HIS CYPRUS STATMENTS, AND FORMER PRIMIN DEMIREL HAS PLEDGED HIS PARTY'S SUPPORT FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. FORMER DEP PRIMIN ERBAKAN, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS CHARACTERIZED MAKING TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS AS "TREASON." END SUMMARY

2. PRIMIN ECEVIT, IN THE FIRST SIX DAYS OF HIS NEW GOVERNMENT, HAS STRESSED REPEATEDLY THE IMPORTANCE THAT HE ATTACHES TO IMPROVING GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AND MAKING PROGRESS IN CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS. THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED JANUARY 5 BY THE GOVERNMENTPARTNERS--THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP), THE REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR), THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP), AND 11 INDEPENDENT DEPUTIES--CALLS FOR THE SOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS "WHICH HAVE BECOME MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE THEY WERE DELAYED AND WHICH HAVE DEVELOPED AGAINST OUR INTEREST BECAUSE THEY BECAME MORE DIFFICULT". THE STATEMENT ALSO SAID THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO OUTSTANDING ISSUES BETWEEN GREECE AND TUKEY. IN HIS OWN STATEMENTS SINCE THEN, ECEVIT HAS AFFIRMED THAT HE INTENDS TO MAKE RAPID PROGRESS; AND IN TOKEN OF HIS INTEREST, HE DELYAED THE READING OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR THE VISIT

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OF UNSYG WALDHEIM (REFTEL).

3. PARALLEL APPROACH TO CYPRUS AND AEGEAN--IN HIS STATEMENTS ABOUT CYPRUS AND GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, ECEVIT HAS INDICATED THAT THE PROBLEMS ARE LINKED AND SHOULD BE SOLVED TOGETHER:

A. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES IN DECEMBER, HE HAD SAID, "I WOULD NOT TIE THE CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN ISSUES TOGETHER. BASICALLY THEY ARE SEPARATE AND SHOULD BE HANDLED SEPARATELY BUT SIMULTANEOUSLY SO THAT PROGRESS IN ONE MAY EASE THE WAY FOR PROGRESS IN THE OTHER".

B. THIS LINKAGE-WITHOUT-LINKAGE OF THE TWO ISSUES WAS REPEATED IN A PURPORTED POLICY OUTLINE FOR THE VISIT OF WALDHEIM WHICH APPEARED IN MILLIYET JANUARY 7. THE OUTLINE ALLEGEDLY POINTED OUT THAT PROGRESS IN ONE IS NOT REQUIRED FOR PROGRESS IN THE OTHER. THE OUTLINE REPORTEDLY ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PRIMIN ECEVIT PERSONALLY BELIEVES THAT MEASURES LEADING TO BETTER GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS CAN BEST BE ESTABLISHED THROUGH HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSINS.

4. US ROLE -- SINCE BECOMING PRIMIN, ECEVIT HAS SAID SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE DOES NOT FORESEE AN ACTIVE ROLE FOR THE UNITED STATES IN THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

A. FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THE JOINT STATEMENT ON JANUARY 5, ECEVIT TOLD REPORTERS THAT TURKS AND GREEKS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS AND DIFFERENCES WHEN LEFT ALONE. WHILE THE UNITED STATES CAN HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT, HE WOULD PREFER THAT ALLIES NOT INTERFERE AND BE IMPARTIAL IN SUPPORT OF TURKISH-GREEK EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THEIR DISPUTES. "WE WILL TRY TO BRING A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS ISSUE DINDEPENDENT OF THE EMBARGO AND TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS," HE CONCLUDED.
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B. THE ALLEGED POLICY OUTLINE IN MILLIYET (ABOVE)
ALSO NOTES: "WITH THE AIM OF ELIMINATING THE TENSION BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE US -- IN OTHER WORDS, SECURING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE DCA--THE GOVERNMENT IS OF THE BELIEF THAT

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RATHER THAN MAKING SOME GESTURES IN CYPRUS POLICY, IT WILL
CREATE A MORE SUITABLE ATMOSPHERE BY PLACING RELATIONS BETWEEN
GREECE AND TURKEY ON A MORE REALISTIC AND POSITIVE BASIS."

C. IN AN INTERVIEW IN HURRIYET JANUARY 9, ECEVIT
RESPONDED TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE UNITED STATES AND THE PART
THAT IT MIGHT PLAY IN A CYPRUS SOLUTION BY SAYING THAT HE
HAD RECENTLY TOLD AN AMERICAN REPORTER THAT TURKEY WOULD WORK
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FOR A SPEEDY CYPRUS SOLUTION EVEN IF THERE WERE NO UNITED
STATES. HE ADDED (AND HURRIYET HEADLINED) THAT HE WOULD
PREFER THAT THE UNITED STATES NOT INVOLVE ITSELF IN THE
CYPRUS MATTER. HE EMPHASIZED, "WE WANT TO SEE A RAPID SOLUTION
IN CYPRUS NOT BECAUSE THE US OR OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES
WANT IT, BUT BECAUSE IT WILL BE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL
CYPRUS AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEACE IN THE REGION."

5. TURKISH REQUIREMENTS FOR CYPRUS--ECEVIT HAS CONTINUED
TO CALL FOR A CYPRUS THAT IS ORIGINATED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF
EQUALITY OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES, DEMOCRACY, AND A BIZONAL,
SOVEREIGN, INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED FEDERAL STATE. ECEVIT
ADDED IN A STATEMENT TO REPORTERS ON JANUARY 8 THAT A FINAL
SOLUTION IN CYPRUS MUST PROVIDE FOR THE PREVENTION OF
INCIDENTS ON THE ISLAND AND MUST SECURE FOR BOTH COMMUNITIES
THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE IN A PEACEFUL, FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.

6. NEW INITIATIVES--ECEVIT ALSO TOLD REPORTERS JANUARY 9
THAT "IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR TURKEY TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN
CONNECTION WITH GEOGRAPHICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTIONS
FOR THE CYPRUS PROBLEM". THE SAME DAY, UNSYG WALDHEIM
TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE FOUND A NEW SENSE OF COOPERATION
IN ANKARA WHICH MADE HIM CONFIDENT THAT PROGRESS TOWARD
A SOLUTION IN CYPRUS IS POSSIBLE.

7. WAIT FOR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE--ECEVIT HAS STRESSED
THAT NO FORMAL CYPRUS POLICY CAN BE ANNOUNCED OR PURSUED
UNTIL THE QUESTION HAS BEEN FULLY DISCUSSED WITHIN HIS

GOVERNMENT AND A POLICY INCORPORATED INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE READ IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON JANUARY 12. HOWEVER, IN AN INTERVIEW IN MILLIYET ON JANUARY 8, ECEVIT SAID THAT INITIAL CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS MINISTERS MADE HIM OPTIMISTIC THAT THERE WILL NOT

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BE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION IN HIS GOVERNMENT ON FOREIGN POLICY. HE ADDED THAT THERE PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE THE "LACK OF POLICY AND STAGNATION" WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT.

8. DEMIREL'S VIEWS AS OPPOSITION LEADER -- AFTER A CONVERSATION WITH UNSYG WALDHEIM ON JANUARY 9, JUSTICE PARTY (JP) CHAIRMAN AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL TOLD REPORTERS, "TURKEY WANTS A CYPRUS SOLUTION MORE THAN ANYONE, BUT NO POLITICAL SOLUTION HAS BEEN FOUND. THE BIGGEST FACTOR HAS BEEN THE ARMS EMBARGO PLACED ON TURKEY BY THE US. AS LONG AS THE EMBARGO EXISTS, GREECE AND THE GREEK-CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION WILL REFRAIN FROM REACHING A POLITICAL SOLUTION, RUN FROM ONE, AND FIND VARIOUS PRETEXTS. SO WE DEFEND THE VIEW THAT THE EMBARGO MUST BE LIFTED FIRST, BECAUSE THE EMBARGO'S PURPOSE IS TO WEAKEN TURKEY'S DEFENSE CAPABILITY. THE CONTINUATION OF A SITUATION WHICH WEAKENS TURKEY'S DEFENSE FORCES IS MORE IMPORTANT TO GREECE THAN A CYPRUS SOLUTION." DEMIREL SAID THAT HIS PARTY WILL KEEP THE INTERESTS OF TURKEY ABOVE ALL OTHERS, NO MATTER WHO IS IN THE GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT WHILE IN OPPOSITION, THE JP WILL ASSIST IN THE REALIZATION OF A REASONABLE SOLUTION.

9. ERBAKAN STILL OPPOSES CONCESSIONS--MEANWHILE, SPEAKING TO REPORTERS IN IZMIR ON JANUARY 8, NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) CHAIRMAN ERBAKAN SAID, "THE GREEKS ARE HIDING THEIR REAL INTENTIONS UNDER THE GUISE OF CONCESSIONS AND GOOD WILL GESTURES." CLAIMING THAT THE GREEKS CANNOT BE TRUSTED AND ARE SEEKING A SOLUTION TO RESTORE THE PREVIOUS STATUS QUO, ERBAKAN REITERATED HIS LONG-HELD VIEW: "NO CONCESSIONS CAN BE GIVEN THROUGH SECRET AGREEMENTS WHICH TAKE THE RIGHTS WON WITH THE BLOOD OF TURKISH MARTYRS. THOSE WHO GIVE THESE CONCESSIONS WILL BECOME TRAITORS."

10. PRESS SUPPORT--EDITORIALS IN PRO-ECEVIT PAPERS
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FOLLOWING THE WALDHEIM VISIT AND ECEVIT'S PRONOUNCEMENTS ON

CYPRUS HAVE APPLAUDED ECEVIT'S PROTOSAL FOR A NEW EFFORT
TO FIND A CYPRUS SOLUTION. MILLIYET JANUARY 10 ON ITS FRONT
PAGE HAS APOLITICAL CARTOON RIDICULING ERBAKAN FOR HIS
ALLEGATION THAT MAKING CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS IS TREASON.
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